



42nd Infantry Division - Operation Iraqi Freedom 3 News

# DISPATCH

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## Getting There: 1st BCT Trains Iraqi Police

Story and photos by Spc. Adam Phelps,  
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FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, Tikrit, Iraq – Task Force Liberty Soldiers continually work to better train Iraqi Security Forces here to take over when Coalition Forces withdraw from Iraq.

Infantrymen with 1st Battalion, 112th Infantry train some of Iraq's Provincial High Crimes (PHC) units to properly search buildings for some of Iraq's high target individuals wanted by Coalition and Iraqi forces.

"We will control everything here if we continue to get more training and more information on how to do the missions and do our job the right way," said Capt. Ishmael Muhammed, PHC unit commander in Tikrit.

"I think they're getting there," said Staff Sgt. Robert Young, a police liaison with Company A, Task Force 1-112, and native of Monaca, Penn. "The motivation is there with a lot of the Iraqis. For now, they still need our help, but in time, I believe they will function quite well."

The training that Task Force 1-112 is giving the PHC is set up to simulate a real mission.

"Their missions are to conduct raids for high-value targets – people wanted by Coalition Forces and Iraqi forces," Young said. "This prepares them to go out and conduct these missions more safely and be more effective to obtain their mission."

Iraqi forces find the training useful in obtaining their objectives, Muhammed said.



Staff Sgt. Robert Young, 1-112 Infantry, Task Force Liberty guides members of the Provincial High Crimes unit in taking on enemy targets around buildings.

"The training is very useful for us because we get more information on how to treat the people and on how to deal with the terrorists and also how to deal with problems around our sector and

our community," he said.

Young said one of the reasons the 1-112 is successful with their training is their work in the civilian world.

"One thing that really helps is I'm a civilian police officer at home and I introduce myself that way to these guys, so I think they find that common bond in policemen all over the world," he said. "They understand I'm here to help a brother in blue. They are very receptive to that rather than a normal Coalition Soldier."

This training will also help Iraqi forces train themselves and spread what they have learned, Muhammed said.

"The training helps me out a lot because by this I'll be able to give the training to my guys anytime I want," he said. "I will be able to train other people from other departments and that will help us out a lot to control our situation."

Young said that training the Iraqi police force better tactics is one of the most important missions in Iraq.

I believe it's the most important in Iraq at this time, Young added. It is a policeman's job to walk the streets.



Members of the Provincial High Crimes unit practice clearing a building in Tikrit, Iraq.



## Iraqi Troops Execute Battalion-Level Operation

Story and photos by Sgt. Matthew Acosta,  
22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, Tikrit, Iraq – “I thank Coalition Forces for all you have done for us, training and conditioning my men to get them where they are now- able to plan and execute independent operations,” said Col. Dakhal Hassan Mohmoud, commander, 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division (IAD).

Since the war in Iraq began, Iraqis have been aiding in the war on terror, providing intelligence to Coalition Forces as well as taking an active part enlisting in the new Iraqi army - some of them soldiers of the former regime.

Iraqi army soldiers have now become proficient in conducting combat operations, and have executed an operation using a battalion of Iraqi troops, Aug. 16.

“Due to intensive training by American forces, the 1st Bn., 1st Bde. soldiers are now proficient enough to plan and conduct independent operations on the battalion level,” said Lt. Col. Todd Wood, commander, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, Task Force Liberty.

These Iraqi soldiers have been training and conducting operations combined with Coalition Forces since the effort to stand up the Iraqi army began. While developing into a fighting force, they were working toward training, planning and conducting independent operations in order to assume security operations from Coalition Forces.

“The battalion developed a list of people they wanted to question,” Wood said. “They also developed a plan of action, rehearsed the mission and executed the mission successfully, according to the plan.”

Iraqi army intelligence personnel began gathering intelligence on terrorist activity in and around the main and alternate supply routes in Tikrit.

“According to our intelligence sources, the target was a neighborhood where several old regime Iraqi army officers lived who are

suspected of planting improvised explosive devices on the main supply routes,” said Iraqi army Capt. Mueen Shehan, intelligence officer, 1st Bn., 4th IAD.

For the first time since the war started, an Iraqi battalion-sized element conducted independent operations backed up by Coalition airpower and fire support.

“They haven’t developed artillery assets yet,” Wood said. “And they couldn’t communicate with the air support, so if they needed that support, they would have coordinated that through our [liaison officers].”

Wood said they compiled a list of 10 personnel they were looking to detain, and because of the swift execution of the operation, they were able to get information on eight of the suspects, and detain the other two. They also confiscated several small arms during the operation.

The operation started early in the morning and successfully ended a few hours later with no reported injuries or damage to private property.

After the operation, all 38 Iraqi vehicles and 375 Iraqi soldiers paraded through Tikrit, showing the people they were a formidable force that could protect the people and inspire their confidence in a unit that lives in the city they operate in, Wood said.

“We wanted to show [the terrorists] who was in power,” said Dakhal.

Coalition Forces agreed on the historical significance of the day.

“[The parade] was a great display because any previous mission the Iraqis conducted were of smaller elements and usually at night when no one could witness,” Wood said. “And I’m sure it had a positive impact on the people of Tikrit as well as any of the folks out there that are involved in terrorist activity.”

“This operation is just the start of the Iraqis taking over,” Dakhal said. “And we will not [allow] any insurgents to enter Tikrit. They will not operate freely or they will be in danger.”

Dakhal said since Iraqi soldiers have been involved more with the people of Tikrit, they have been very helpful with intelligence information on terrorist activity and have even asked the soldiers for assistance in dealing with personal problems. Without the support from locals, he added they would have “a more difficult time finding success.”

“Everyone will remember this day,” Dakhal said. “Finally today we see what all the hard training [the 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry has] done for us; thank you (Lt.) Col. Wood, for this great day to celebrate.”



Iraqi soldiers from the 1st Battalion inspect an assault rifle found in a closet of a home in the village of Al Julaam.

## New Soldiers Graduate from Training

by 116th BCT  
Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, Iraq – More than a 1,000 enlistees from four separate battalions assigned to defend Iraq’s valuable infrastructure graduated from individual enlisted training September 1 at the Iraqi Army’s K1 training facility near Kirkuk.

The graduates were comprised of four platoons from each of three of the Iraqi army’s Strategic Infrastructure Battalions (SIB) - the 1st, 2nd and 3rd battalions. About 475 soldiers from the 18th SIB also graduated.

Distinguished guests from both Iraqi and Coalition Forces attended the graduation ceremonies, including the Iraqi Army’s 4th Division Commander Lt. Gen. Aziz Abdul Al Rahman, the 2nd Brigade Commander Maj. Gen. Anwar Hamed Amin, the 2nd Brigade Executive Officer Brig. Gen. Ayad Mohammed Saleh and Col. Jasim Ali Khalil, the K1 Training Center commander.

Iraqi army 4th Division Commander Lt. Gen. Aziz Abdul Al Rahman presents a gift to a distinguished graduate of the individual enlisted training program at the training center near Kirkuk.

Coalition Forces guests included 116th Brigade Combat Team (BCT) Commander Brig. Gen. Alan Gayhart and Task Force 1-148 Field Artillery Commander Lt. Col. Russell Johnson. Kirkuk Provincial Governor Abdulrahman Mustafa also attended and personally recognized the top graduate.

“This ceremony represents a milestone in the Iraqi army’s journey to becoming a fully trained and capable force,” said Brig. Gen. Gayhart. “As the Iraqi forces continue to fill their ranks with trained soldiers, they are more prepared to defend the new freedoms all Iraqis enjoy.”

The hour-long ceremony included music by an Iraqi Army band, readings from the Koran, a speech by Training Center Commander Col. Khalil, a pass-in-review, passing of the colors and awards for the top 10 graduates.



IA formation bearing the Iraqi colors, passes in review before Iraqi army commanding officers during an individual enlisted training graduation ceremony at the K1 training center near Kirkuk.